of the 4th and final round of the meeting of preparatory committee of UNCED held in USA earlier;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the strategy finalised by India after mobilising both G-77 nations and sympathetic industrialised nations to oppose any move by the industrialised West to use Trade Policy as weapon or instrument for global environment management or to introduce any new conditionalities on account of environmental considerations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) A Conference of SAARC Environment Ministers was held at New Delhi on April 8-9, 1992 to deliberate upon the issues related to the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

(b) A copy of the Joint Communique issued at the end of the deliberations is placed in Parliament Library for kind perusal of Hon'ble Members.

(c) The G-77 nations, including India, are of the view that the developed countries should not attempt to impose unilateral restrictions on international trade, in particular on natural resources and products thereof on environmental grounds, or to any new conditionalities on account of environmental considerations.

**Environmental Pollution**

1784. SHRI BHADRESWAR BURAGOHAIN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is large scale open-cast mining in the coal fields of upper Assam which are causing wide-spread environmental pollution and wanton destruction of paddy fields;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to check the same;

(c) whether Government have discussed this matter with the Ministry of Coal; and

(d) if so, what is their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) Based on the represenations received from various groups and organisations, this Ministry had constituted an Expert Committee in 1988 to examine the environmental implications of open-cast mining projects of Coal India Limited near Patkai and Namsik Hills in Assam. The Committee submitted its report in March, 1989. Consequently the matter was taken up with the Department of Coal and Coal India Limited and open-cast mining operations at Tikak mines were stopped from April, 1990. Also mitigative measures for pollution control and restoration of the degraded areas due to mining have been suggested.

**Global Environment Facility**

1785. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Group of 77 (G-77) developing countries has recently demanded a firm commitment from the developed countries on the management of the GEF (Global Environment Facility);

(b) whether there was also a proposal for the third World Environment Project Fund; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) During the fourth meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in March—April, 1992, the Group of 77 and China put forward the view that the governance of Global Environment Facility (GEF) must be transparent and democratic in nature, and that this should be reflected in all its operations and decision-making.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

**Projects for Environmental Clearance**

1786. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects of Government of Orissa which have got environmental clearance by the Minitry in the year 1991-92 and the number of projects which are still awaiting clearance from the Ministry and since when; and

(b) what are the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No project of Government of Orissa has been received for environmental clearance during 1991-92 and no project of Government of Orissa is awaiting environmental clearance from this Ministry.

(b) Does not arise.

**Problem of Pollution and Health Hazards in Delhi due to smoke emission by vehicles**

1787. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite many laws and rules and regulations there is no perceptible let up in the emission of smoke by the DTC buses, tempos, scooters and other vehicles in the Capital posing long term pollutional and health hazards to its everyday burgeoning population;

(b) if so, the reasons for which the law enforcing agencies have failed to enforce these laws, rules and regulations; and

(c) what steps Government is now propose to take to meet this serious challenge?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Delhi Administration through the Directorate of Transport Has authorised 110 private workshops and petrol pumps to provide pollution checking and tuning facilities. These centres have provided pollution checking facility to aproxpimately 5.87 lakh vehicles between July, 1990 and May, 1991. About 1.77 lakh polluting vehicles were tuned and their pollution levels brought to within the prescribed standards. A total number of 11.71 lakh vehicle owners have availed pollution checking facility between March, 1990 and October, 1991. About 1.51 lakh vehicle owners have been issued warning slips between the above mentioned period for non-compliance of standards prescribed in the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. 4713 number of Vehicles have been prosecuted till November, 1991 in accordance with the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989. In addition, 'Certificate of Fitness' of about 5058 transport vehicles